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[Short Communication]

A new record of the wall spider, *Oecobius marathaus* (Araneae: Oecobiidae), from Japan

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Abstract — *Oecobius marathaus* (Araneae: Oecobiidae) is recorded for the first time from Japan on the basis of a female specimen collected from Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture. A description of the specimen is presented with figures of its body and genital organ. This species can be easily distinguished from other Japanese congeners by the unique structure of epigyne.

Key words — new record, taxonomy, wall spider, Ryukyu Islands

Members of the genus *Oecobius* C. L. Koch 1839 (Araneae: Oecobiidae) are known as wall spiders that make small webs over crevices in walls, and currently comprises 86 species worldwide (World Spider Catalog 2017). In addition to the three species known from Japan; i.e. *O. cellariorum* (Duges 1836); *O. consinnus* Simon 1893 and *O. navus* Blackwall 1859 (Tanikawa 2016), we recently recognized the occurrence of the fourth species of *O. marathaus* Tikader 1962 in Japan after examining the material collected on Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture. This species is widely distributed in Pantropical region, but there is also an uncertain record from Taiwan which belongs to the subtropical zone of East Asia. The specimen from Taiwan was originally identified as *O. formosensis* (Kishida 1943) on the basis of a male specimen whose deposit location was unknown (Lee 1966). However, Santos et al. (2009) demonstrated that *O. formosensis* was unrecognizable because of no type specimen and low quality of the original description, and judged that the male specimen from Taiwan, illustrated by Lee (1966) as *O. formosensis*, was *O. marathaus* on the basis of the illustrations of the palp. Because the specimens of *O. marathaus* have not been confirmed from Taiwan until today, the record from Japan is valuable to support its distribution in subtropical Asia. Here, we report the first record of this species from Japan, and present the morphological characteristics of the female specimen. The specimen is deposited in the collection of the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo (NSMT-Ar 14744).

The following abbreviations are used: AER, anterior eye row; PER, posterior eye row; LS, longitudinal sulcus.

Oecobius marathaus Tikader 1962
[Japanese name: Nettai-chiri-gumo]
(Figs. 1–3)

Oecobius marathaus Tikader 1962, p. 684, figs. 2a–b; Shear & Benoit 1974, p. 709; Baum 1980, p. 347, figs. 16–18; Santos & Gonzaga 2003, p. 247, figs. 12–16, 22–23.
Oecobius formosensis Lee 1966, p. 18, figs. 3a–d.
Maitreja marathaus: Lehtinen 1967, p. 246, fig. 31; Saaristo 1997, p. 71, figs. 1–4; Saaristo 2010, p. 106, figs. 21 1–6.
Oecobius reefi Saaristo 1978, p. 104, figs. 46–51; Schmidt & Krause 1994, p. 234, fig. 1.
Oecobius inopinatus Wunderlich 1995, p. 691, figs. 1A–C.

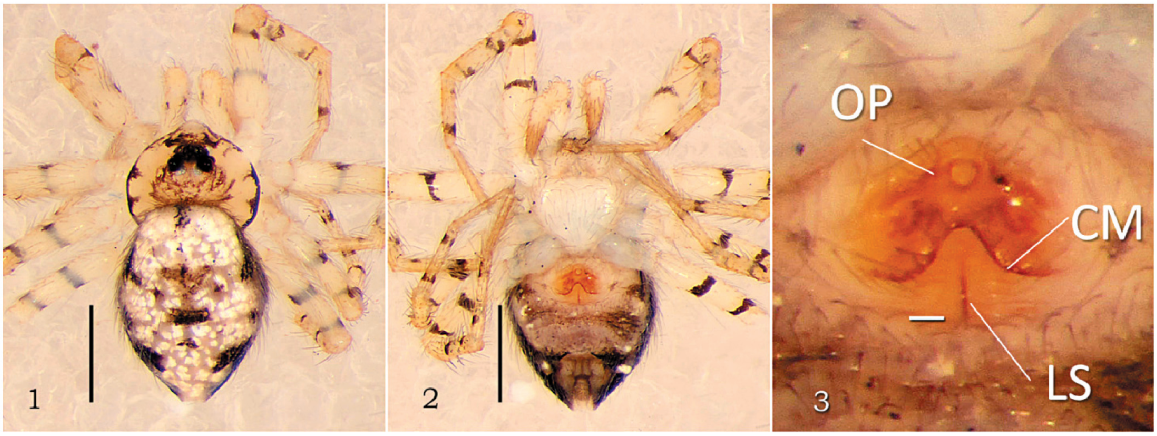
Specimen examined. 1♀, Shiraho, Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan (24.416N, 124.239E), R. Ukuda-Hosokawa and I. Hanmine leg., 24-September-2015 (NSMT-Ar 14744).

Diagnosis. The carapace pattern of *O. marathaus* is characterized by triangular marginal spots and a central brown marking (Fig. 1). The female of this species can be easily distinguished from those of other Japanese congeners by the structure of epigyne; i.e. the presence of a process anterior to copulatory opening, and posterior LS (Fig. 3).

Description. Measurements (mm). Body 1.45 long. Carapace 0.70 long; 0.61 wide. Abdomen 1.12 long; 0.79 wide. AER almost straight and PER procurved. Carapace circular and abdomen like pentagon. Leg lengths (tarsus + metatarsus + tibia + patella + femur = total): I, 0.33 + 0.39 + 0.48 + 0.21 + 0.61 = 2.02; II, 0.33 + 0.42 + 0.48 + 0.18 + 0.64 = 2.05; III, 0.33 + 0.42 + 0.48 + 0.18 + 0.58 = 1.99; IV, 0.36 + 0.48 + 0.52 + 0.21 + 0.64 = 2.21.

Coloration and markings (Figs. 1–2). Carapace light yellow with a large central brown marking and marginal triangular spots; eye region black. Dorsum of abdomen white with mesh-like markings and black spots. Maxillae, labium, and sternum white. Leg segments yellowish white with black bands.

Epigyne (Fig. 3). An anteriorly pointing process situated anterior to copulatory opening. LS situated posterior to



Figs. 1–3. *Oecobius marathaus* Tikader 1962, ♀ (NSMT-Ar 14744). 1, habitus, dorsal view; 2, habitus, ventral view; 3, epigyne. Scales = 1 mm (1–2); 0.1 mm (3). CM, concave margin; OP, opening; LS, longitudinal sulcus.

concave margin.

Notes. This species is usually found in urban area (Santos & Gonzaga 2003), but the individual examined in the present study was collected from a rice paddy field by net-sweeping method.

Distribution. Pantropical region (Australia, India, Comoro Islands, Seychelles Islands, and South America) and other climatic zones (Yemen, South Africa and Ryukyus, Japan).

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